

Message Text

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62

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-11 COME-00 USPS-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 141725Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

JCS

NATO/SHAPE SUPPORT GROUP (US) BEL

USAFPCS ALEXANDRIA VA

USAFPCS EUR ME RGN RHEIN MAIN AB GER

USAFPCS DIST BRUSSELS BEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 5258

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI MARR BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CUSTOMS AND THE APO

REF: A. BRUSSELS 4563 B. BRUSSELS 4977 C. USAFPCS DIST
BRUSSELS 121521Z SEP 73 D. DINCUSAREUR 290956Z AUG 73
(NOTAL)

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1. FOLLOWING OFFICIAL APPROVAL FROM BELGIAN CUSTOMS OF TEXT CABLED IN REF B, EMBASSY SENT LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 6 TO DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CUSTOMS GOOSSENS. WE ARE TOLD BY HIS OFFICE THAT REPLY WILL BE IN OUR HANDS ON APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 19. ALTHOUGH CUSTOMS INSPECTORS AT ZAVENTEM ARE REPORTEDLY ANXIOUS TO BEGIN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BELGIAN CUSTOMS DIRECTIVE OF MAY 21, THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY GOOSSENS' OFFICE TO DO NOTHING PENDING EMBASSY RECEIPT OF HIS LETTER OF REPLY.

2. MEANWHILE, WE NOTE REPORTS IN REFS C AND D THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF INCOMING PRIVATE PARCELS DO NOT RPT NOT BEAR CUSTOMS TAGS. REFS A AND C BOTH POINTED OUT THAT PARCELS ARRIVING WITHOUT THE REQUIRED CUSTOMS TAGS WOULD NATURALLY AROUSE SUSPICION ON THE PART OF CUSTOMS INSPECTORS, PROBABLY LEADING TO A DEMAND FOR EXAMINATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PARCELS INVOLVED.

3. WE URGE ONCE AGAIN THAT US POSTAL AUTHORITIES, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, BE REMAINDERED PROMPTLY OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR CUSTOMS TAGS ON PARCELS SENT TO RECIPIENTS WITH APO ADDRESSES. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT PARCELS LACKING CUSTOM TAGS NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR MAILING BY US POST OFFICES.

4. AS AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MEMBERS OF ALL RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS AND UNITS IN BELGIUM BE ENCOURAGED TO ADVISE THOSE PERSONS FROM WHOM THEY REGULARLY RECEIVE PARCELS OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR CUSTOMS TAGS. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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